

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to you; I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break and that you were able to take the opportunity to meet with friends and family in gardens and outside spaces. It does feel that things are edging towards a little more normality and as the weather continues to improve, the sunshine really helps to lighten the mood!



At this point, there are very few amendments to the guidance for schools and as such, we will be continuing to implement the Covid-19 measures that we already have in school. This particularly means social distancing, the staggered start and end to the day and the requirement to wear face coverings when collecting and dropping off your child.

We are delighted to welcome back some after school clubs for the summer term. These are such an important part of life at our school and I hope that you will support these and encourage your child to take part. We will hopefully be offering an after school club to children in EYFS and Year 1 after the half term holiday.

The summer term is always busy and in usual circumstances would be full of school and PTFA events, particularly towards the end of term. We will bring you further information about any relaxation of rules in school as soon as we can, but please understand that anything planned will be subject to the Government guidance and the continuation of the 'roadmap' out of lockdown.



Sunny Weather

As I write this newsletter, the sun is shining. I would encourage parents to send children to school with a sun hat for playtime, as the sun is at its strongest when the children are playing outside. Sun cream should be applied before school, if sending sun cream into school, children should be able to apply it themselves. Please also make sure that everything sent into school is named.

Break time snacks

As a 'Healthy School' we aim to promote healthy eating with the children. All children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit each day to eat during morning break. I have noticed that a number of children are beginning to bring in items that are not 'healthy' snacks. Children are encouraged to bring fruit as a snack for morning break. We would also encourage children in KS2 to bring a 'healthy' snack to school to eat at break time as they do not currently start their lunch break until 12.30pm.



Attendance Matters

More than ever following the period of school closure your child's attendance matters; regular attendance is crucial if children are to achieve well. As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure that a child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and punctually. Please do not be surprised if we ask for evidence of medical appointments, this is so that we can accurately record the reason for your child's absence.

We will contact you if we are concerned about your child's attendance, this might initially be a conversation or we may write to you. If a child's attendance does not improve, we will contact the Attendance Welfare Officer for advice and guidance and they may contact you directly.

Parents Evening

Next week is our parents evening via Zoom. This gives you an opportunity to discuss the midterm report and ask any questions you may have. These meetings will have the usual allocated time of 10 minutes. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have not been able to make an appointment.

Bank Holiday

Don't forget that Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday and school will be closed. School will reopen on Tuesday 4th May.

Please see information below from Leicestershire Local Authority about the use of Lateral flow tests with children:

- **Lateral flow tests are not suitable for use on young children.** Primary aged children are not included in the mass asymptomatic testing programme; only secondary and college age pupils, along with their families should be taking lateral flow tests twice a week.
- Families who have access to LFD tests must be very clear that these are only to be used for **regular testing where no one is suspected of having Covid-19**. The purpose of these tests is to spot cases in the community that we wouldn't otherwise have known about.
- Families should not use these tests on themselves or their children if they have symptoms. **A PCR test at a national testing centre must be booked where infection is suspected.** A lateral flow test could fail to spot someone who is just developing an infection but a PCR test will not. Having symptoms, getting a negative LFT result and assuming you are virus free could result in you spreading the virus to others.
- To book a PCR test, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Changes to collection arrangements

Please let the **school office** know if there are any changes to your collection arrangements via email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher

Diary Dates		
Tuesday 27th April	Parents Evening via Zoom	3.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 29th April	Parents Evening via Zoom	3.30pm to 6.30pm
Monday 3rd May	School closed May Bank Holiday	
Friday 28th May	School closed for half term	
Monday 7th June	School reopens	
Friday 9th July	School closed for Summer holidays	
Wednesday 25th August	School reopens for Autumn Term	
Monday 30th August	School closed for Bank Holiday	

Forest School Dates		
Wednesday 28th April	Year 4	All Day
Thursday 6th May	Year 5	All Day
Tuesday 11th May	Year 6	All Day
Wednesday 19th May	Year 2	All Day
Wednesday 26th May	Year 3	All Day
Wednesday 9th June	Year 4	All Day
Thursday 17th June	Year 5	All Day
Tuesday 22nd June	Year 6	All Day

EYFS and Year 1 Forest School		
Year 1	Every Friday (Last session is on Friday 25 th June)	AM
EYFS	Every Friday (Last session is on Friday 25 th June)	PM

Multi Sports Clubs		
Monday	Year 4	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday	Year 2	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	Year 5	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Thursday	Year 3	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Clubs this half term will run until Friday 28th May		